

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 6, 2003. Claims 25-31 are presented for examination, of which only Claim 25 is in independent form. Claims 1-24 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein, and new Claims 25-31 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that the disclosure is objected to for certain informalities. In response, the specification has been amended to correct the informalities noted in section 3 of the Office Action. The changes suggested in the Office Action have been adopted, and therefore withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure is respectfully requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,100,812 (Tanaka et al.); and that Claims 1-14 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,313,875 (Suga et al.). Cancellation of Claims 1-14 and 20-24 renders their rejections moot. Applicants submit that new independent Claim 1, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 25 is directed to a method of remotely controlling an imaging apparatus. The method includes a reception step, a frame determination step, a first command generation step, and a first command sending step. In the reception step, a captured image is received, which is transferred by an isochronous transfer from

the imaging apparatus. In the frame determination step, a shape and an area of a frame to be set within the captured image by the imaging apparatus is determined. In the first command generation step, a first command for causing the imaging apparatus to set the frame within the captured image is generated. In the first command sending step, the first command is sent to the imaging apparatus by an asynchronous transfer.

Some of the notable features of Claim 25 are that a shape and an area of a frame to be set within an image provided by the imaging apparatus is determined (see Fig. 2), a command for causing the imaging apparatus to set the frame within the image is generated (see Fig. 26), and the generated command is transferred to the imaging apparatus by an asynchronous transfer.

Tanaka et al. relates to a communication control system for remotely controlling a target apparatus (VTR). As understood by Applicants, Tanaka et al. discloses transmitting a control command to the target apparatus via an IEEE-1394 serial bus (see column 6, lines 15-29, and Fig. 1).

Suga et al. relates to a video system in which a camera is controlled by a control apparatus via a communication network, such as an ISDN (see lines 19-23 of column 1). Figs. 12A-12D of Suga et al. show a frame on an image.

Applicants submit that a combination of Tanaka et al. and Suga et al., assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest a control method of remotely controlling an imaging apparatus, wherein the method includes "a reception step of receiving a captured image transferred by an isochronous transfer from the imaging

apparatus," and "a frame determination step of determining a shape and an area of a frame to be set within the captured image by the imaging apparatus," and "a first command generation step of generating a first command for causing the imaging apparatus to set the frame within the captured image," and "first command sending step of sending the first command to the imaging apparatus by an asynchronous transfer," as recited in Claim 25.

In the Office Action (page 5, lines 6-7), it is conceded that Tanaka et al. "fails to specifically disclose a control command for setting a predetermined area in an image," and cites Suga et al. for disclosing such a feature. Applicants submit, however, that Suga et al. does not disclose or suggest determining a shape and an area of a frame to be set in an image and generating a command to be transferred to an imaging apparatus to cause the imaging apparatus to set a frame of the determined shape and area in the image. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 25 is patentable over both Tanaka et al. and Suga et al.

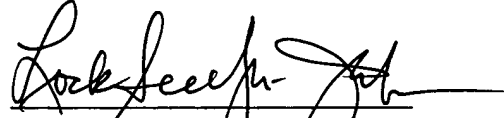
The other claims in this application depend from Claim 25 and therefore are submitted to be patentable for at least the above reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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